

# Not Just Knots How To Preserve Knots

Skill level: beginner, immediate, advanced

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Sometimes it is helpful to preserve the knots you tie, either because they are part of a display or simply because you want to save them. Once preserved, a knot keeps its shape and cannot be untied.



## Materials

**Cordage or tied knots**  
**Cardboard**

## Tools

**Brads or pins**  
**Cardboard box**  
**Clear tape**  
**Marking pen**  
**Mixing bowl**  
**Utility knife**  
**Wax paper**  
**White glue**

## What to Do

1. In the mixing bowl, make a solution of 1 part glue to 7 to 10 parts water. For one half cup of solution, start with 1 tablespoon of glue and 7 tablespoons of water. (Eight tablespoons equals ½ cup.) If the solution seems too thick, add small amounts of water until it is as thin as you would like. This solution is nontoxic and cleans up easily with water. It also does not stain or color the cordage.



2. Use a utility knife and cut the cardboard box into a square bigger than the knot. Cut a piece of wax paper large enough to cover the square. Tape the wax paper to the cardboard.



3. After you have tied the knot, thoroughly soak it in the glue solution. Make sure it is completely soaked.



4. Lay out the knot on the cardboard covered with wax paper. Use the brads or pins to secure the knot in the position you want. If there is room, you can pin several knots onto a single piece of cardboard.

The wax paper prevents the knot from sticking to the cardboard, and the pins prevent the cordage from twisting out of shape as it dries. It may take up to three days for the knot to thoroughly dry.

If you have a lot of knots, label what's what so you won't have to guess the name of the knot later on.



5. After the knot is completely dry, unpin it and take it off the wax paper. It can now be mounted on a temporary or permanent knot board. Because it has been preserved, it won't come untied.



**Now your knots can be handled without coming apart!**

